

## Christiana Care Selected For the National Cancer Institute Pilot Program -- June 25, 2007

Washington D.C.

-- Representative Mike Castle is pleased to recognize the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center at Christiana Care for being chosen as a site for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP) pilot program. Christiana Care was one of 14 centers nationwide selected for this program, which will provide state-of-the-art technology, care, and resources to the community and make Delaware a national leader in cancer research.

"On average across the nation, 1.3 million people will be diagnosed with cancer and approximately 556,500 are expected to die of the disease annually. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Delaware, and this research is vital to improving the care available to patients in the region. This program will provide the necessary resources to keep Christiana Care and the state at the forefront of cancer research in the nation. Christiana Hospital has been seen as regional model of excellence in medical care and research, but this selection distinguishes the program on a national level. We are lucky to have such an excellent facility in our state," Castle said.

During this three year pilot phase, the NCCCP will strengthen the education and treatment programs for many underserved populations throughout the state, including racial and ethnic groups, the elderly, inner-city, rural, and low-income patients, which tend to have unusually high cancer rates. For each of the three years of the pilot program, the sites will be funded for a collective total of \$5 million. An NCI panel will set goals, monitor progress, and evaluate the success of the pilot before issuing recommendations for a full-fledged program.

The primary goal of this program is to study ways in which the community healthcare systems can be electronically connected so its patients can take part in the early phases of new drug development. The NCCCP will also create a network of sites that will serve as a model for enabling cancer research for the greater inclusion of community-based practitioners.

The NCI leads the nation's efforts to discover better ways to prevent, diagnose, and cure cancer; it is committed to identifying the ways to integrate the latest that science has to offer into this already exceptional community-based care.

Other sites selected for the pilot program include:

- Billings Clinic,  
Billings, Mont. (Billings Clinic Cancer Center)
- Hartford Hospital,

Hartford, Conn. (Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center)

- St. Joseph's /  
Candler, Savannah, Ga. (Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer & Research  
Pavilion)

- Our Lady of the  
Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge, La. (Our Lady of the Lake  
Cancer Center and Mary Bird Perkins  
Cancer Center)

- Sanford USD Medical  
Center, Sioux Falls, S.D. (Sanford Cancer Center)

- Spartanburg Regional Hospital, Spartanburg, S.C.,  
(Gibbs Regional Cancer Center)

- St. Joseph Hospital, Orange, Calif. (St.  
Joseph Hospital Cancer Center)

- Christiana Hospital, Newark, Del. (Helen F.  
Graham Cancer Center at Christiana Care)

- Ascension Health of St. Louis, Mo. for these  
hospitals:

- St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind. (St.  
Vincent Oncology Center)

- Columbia St. Mary's, Milwaukee, Wis. (Columbia St. Mary's  
Cancer Center)

- Brackenridge  
Hospital, Austin, Texas (Shivers Center)

- Catholic Health Initiatives of Denver, Colo.,  
for these hospitals:

- Penrose-St.  
Francis Health Services, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Penrose Cancer Center)

- St.  
Joseph Medical Center, Towson, Md. (St. Joseph Cancer Institute)

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coordinated regional program in Nebraska sponsored by Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney (Good Samaritan Cancer Center); St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln (St. Elizabeth Cancer Center); and St. Francis Medical Center in Grand Island (St. Francis Cancer Treatment Center).

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